Message Text

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14

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 EB-11 AGR-20 COME-00 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4184 INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT LOUIS 1015

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MP, UNGA, SF, PFOR

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER DEFENDS MAURITIAN STAND AT UNGA ON SA

CREDENTIALS

REF: A) PORT LOUIS 0984; B) PORT LOUIS 0990

- 1. ON ARRIVAL MAURITIUS OCTOBER 20 FROM OVERSEAS, PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM MADE REFERENCE AT AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE TO HIGH HONOR GIVEN HIM IN BEING DECORATED BY FRENCH GOVERNMENT, AND NOTED INCREASING GOOD RELATIONS WITH FRENCH (SEPTEL).
- 2. FOLLOWING OPENING STATEMENT, PRIME MINISTER WAS QUIZZED BY PRESS ON MOVE TAKEN ON SA CREDENTIALS BY MAURITIAN PERMRES RAMPHUL AT UNGA (REF. A). PM STRONGLY DEFENDED RAMPHUL, ALTHOUGH ADMITTING THIS WAS "DELICATE SUBJECT." NOT ONLY, HE SAID, WAS RAMPHUL ACTING AS OCTOBER LEADER FOR AFRICAN GROUP, BUT MAURITIUS ITSELF FELT BOUND MAKE KNOWN ITS ABHORRENCE WHAT GOING ON IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, E.G., CARLTONVILLE; AND PUNITIVE MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY PORTUGESE IN MOZAMBIQUE.

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3. PRIME MINISTER BECAME, IN FACT, QUITE IMPASSIONED ON SUBJECT,

AND CHIEF OF PROTOCOL BROUGHT QUESTIONING TO EARLY HALT.

COMMENT: MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS RAULT TOLD CHARGE AFTER PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THIS WHOLE ISSUE LIKELY TO BE FURTHER -- AND FIERCELY -- DEBATED IN CABINET. RAULT, WHO HAD BEEN CHIEF OF GOM DELEGATION NEGOTIATING TEA AGREEMENT IN PRETORIA, SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN STRICTLY A SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICAL DECISION TO GRANT MAURITIANS MORE FAVORABLE PRICE ON TEA. HE EXPECTS NOW THAT SOUTH AFRICA MAY ENFORCE CERTAIN ECONOMIC RESTRICTIONS ON MAURITIUS. RAULT PLAINLY DID NOT SHARE OPINION VOICED AT PRESS SESSION BY DR. RAM THAT "POLITICAL QUESTIONS CANNOT BE TIED INTO ECONOMIC AFFAIRS."

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, OPPOSITION TO ADMISSION, MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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TAGS: PFOR, MP, SF, UNGA, (RAMGOOLAM, SEEWOOSAGUR)

To: STATE

Type: TE

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